28. The need for appointing an expert to discover a proper remedy for the cocoanut palm disease which is rapidly spreading in the Kartigapalli taluk.

MR. KANAKKU MADHAVAN PILLAI NARAYANA PILLAI (*Kartikapalli taluk*) said that many cocoanut trees in the Kartikapalli taluk had decayed owing to the plant pest and in the case of many trees the yield had been considerably reduced. Consequently 95 per cent. of the men who were dependent on cocoanut trees were driven to abject penury. The Director of Agriculture and his staff were not able to improve this state of affairs by finding out ways for combating the plant disease. It was therefore highly necessary for the Government to get down an expert who would be able to find out a cure for the evil. Any amount spent on that account would not be a loss as it would materially improve the position of the ryot.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Narayana Pillai, I understand that there are several forms of cocoanut disease and our Agricultural Department has, by investigations in the past, discovered the root cause of all those diseases except the root disease. Perhaps you will say, it is the root disease that is causing havoc. That is really a disease which is found to be causing loss not only in Travancore but in other countries such as Ceylon and Java, where cocoanut palms exist. In those countries also, as here, the departments concerned are trying their best to find out the cause and some remedies for curing it. They too, it is known, have not yet succeeded in finding out either the cause or the remedy. However, in order to supplement what the department is doing, there is a proposal under the consideration of Government, for sending the departmental Mycologist to Ceylon, to find out what that Government is doing, so that, if any new lines of investigation are found to be followed there, they might be utilised here to supplement our investigations. I do not think there is any great use in going to the very heavy expense of Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000 a month mainly for the purpose of getting an expert here, because other rich Governments like Ceylon are doing it and the result of their work will be available to us too.

Let us hope that scientific investigation will be able to find out this enemy of the cocoanut palm and a means of destroying it. The Government and the Agricultural Department are, as you yourself said, doing all that is possible in this direction. Now the Agricultural Director tells me that, even in the case of the diseases for which remedies have been discovered, unless there is the hearty co-operation of the people and the department, and unless the remedy suggested by the department is applied by the people, the diseases cannot be successfully combated.

29. The Travancore Government and Co-operative Societies.

MR. KRISHNAN UNNITHAN KESAVAN UNNITHAN (*Kunnathur taluk*) spoke about the working of the Co-operative Societies Regulation. He said that it was gratifying that the Dewan had

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much sympathy with the co-operative societies as evidenced by his taking part in the Co-operative Conference held at Quilon, and the Co-operator's Day held at the capital. The co-operative movement had been in existence for the past 14 years and the time had come to enquire into the working of the Regulation and see whether any change was necessary or not. A committee with a non-official majority should therefore be appointed to enquire into the working of the co-operative societies.

A land mortgage bank should be established in Travancore. That question had been under the consideration of the Government for about three years and should be decided without further delay.

A suitable grant should be sanctioned for the Co-operative Institute No. 777 run purely by non-official gentlemen.

Non-official gentlemen working for the advancement of co-operative activities should be adequately encouraged by the Government. In British India, they were given travelling allowance and a peon each. In Travancore also they were formerly given travelling allowance, but subsequently it was stopped. The member prayed that honorary organisers of co-operative societies should be given travelling allowance and a peon each as in British India.

The security deposits furnished by Government officials and contractors should be deposited in the Central Co-operative Bank and other co-operative banks. This arrangement would ensure a higher rate of interest to the depositor and more money for the agriculturists to borrow at small rates of interest.

The Government were not showing much sympathy towards the officers of the Co-operative Department. The present Registrar would have occupied higher positions if he had not been posted to the Co-operative Department. In British India, a senior Collector was being appointed as Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The pay of the Registrar should therefore be raised to that of the senior Dewan Peishkar. An Assistant Registrar should be appointed in each Revenue Division and the number of Inspectors increased and their pay enhanced.

The resolutions passed at the Co-operative Conference held at Quilon should be sympathetically considered by the Government.

Lastly, the member spoke about the attitude of the Director of Public Instruction towards co-operative movement in the State. The Director had issued a circular prohibiting the use of school buildings for any purpose other than educational. School masters doing co-operative work had been transferred from the spheres of their activities. He had ordered that letters addressed to the Education Department by teachers on co-operative matters should be ignored unless received through the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. Further no teacher could take part in co-operative activities without the permission of the Director of Public Instruction. The member requested that the circular to this effect should be ordered to be withdrawn.

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DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kesavan Unnithan, പരസ്പരസഹായ സംഘങ്ങളുടെ ഇതുവരെയുള്ള നടത്തിപ്പിനെപ്പറ്റി നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞു. രണ്ടാമതായി ട്രസ്റ്റത്തു ബാങ്കു സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനേയും ഗവണ്മെൻറു പണം കോവാപ്പറേറീവ് ബാങ്കുകളിൽ നിക്ഷേപിക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റിയും പറഞ്ഞു. ഈ രണ്ടു സംഗതികളും ഇപ്പോൾ പുത്തനായിട്ടു ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള ബാങ്കിംഗ് എൻകയറികമ്മിറ്റി (Banking Enquiry Committee) യുടെ വിചാരണയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. ഈ കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ട് ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു കിട്ടിയതിനുശേഷം അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കാം.

പരസ്പരസഹായ സംഘങ്ങൾക്കു ശരിയായ പ്രോത്സാഹനമില്ല; ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാർക്കു ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടണം; ആണറിയായിട്ടു ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നവർക്കു സഞ്ചാരപ്പടി കൊടുക്കണം എന്നു നിങ്ങൾ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ഈ സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കാം.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ സഹകരണ ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു പ്രതിബന്ധമായി ഒരു സർക്കുലർ അയച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞു. അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പരസ്പരസഹായ സംഘം രജിസ്ട്രാരുടെ ഒരു റിപ്പോർട്ടു വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ആലോചനയിൽ ഇരിക്കയാണ്.

MEMBER: ബാങ്കിംഗ് എൻകയറികമ്മിറ്റി കോവാപ്പറേറീവ് ബാങ്കുകളെപ്പറ്റി വിചാരണചെയ്യുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

DEWAN: എന്റെ അറിവിൽ പെട്ടിടത്തോളം ബാങ്കിംഗ് എൻകയറികമ്മറ്റി ഈ സംഗതികളെപറ്റി കൂടി വിചാരണ നടത്തുമെന്നാണു വിചാരിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതു്, ജനങ്ങൾ എത്രമാത്രം ഋണബാദ്ധ്യതയിൽ പെട്ടുകിടക്കുന്നു എന്നു അന്വേഷണം നടത്തുന്നുണ്ട്. കോവാപ്പറേറീവ് സംഘങ്ങളേയും ബാങ്കുകളേയും വിഗണിച്ചു അവർ വിചാരണനടത്തുകയില്ല.

MEMBER: കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ വിചാരണകൾ കഴിഞ്ഞു റിപ്പോർട്ട് സമർപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു കാലതാമസം നേരിടും.

DEWAN: ഗവണ്മെൻറു ചെയ്യേണ്ട കാര്യമാകുമ്പോൾ എത്രത്തോളം ധനം ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നുകൂടി അറിയേണ്ടതായ സംഗതികൾ നടപ്പാക്കുന്നതിനു കാലതാമസം നേരിടാം. ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഒരു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനു മുമ്പായിട്ടു അതിന്റെ ഗുണവും ദോഷവും അറിയേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. അതിലേക്കു കുറെ താമസം വേണ്ടിവരുന്നതായാൽ ആ താമസം സഹിക്കതന്നെ വേണം.

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[The two points referred to, *viz.*, the establishment of a land mortgage bank and the deposit of Government money in co-operative banks come within the purview of the Banking Enquiry Committee recently constituted. Those points will be considered on receipt of the Committee's report.

The suggestions about the encouragement of co-operative movement by enhancing the pay of the Inspectors and by granting travelling allowance to the honorary workers will also be considered.

A report has been received from the Registrar of Co-operative Societies about the obstacles placed in the way of the officers of the Education Department taking part in co-operative activities. It is under the consideration of the Government.]

30. Suggestions for the advancement of co-operative movement in the State.

MR. P. KUMARA PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Alwaye*) said that within the short period of working of the Co-operative Societies Regulation the co-operative movement had gained wide popularity with the result that there were about 1,800 societies with over 2,00,000 members and a working capital of Rs. 53 lakhs. With the rapid development of the co-operative movement, the work in the department had considerably increased and become too much for a single officer to cope with. Consequently the audit reports for the previous co-operative year were published only 9 months after its close. This delay was anything but conducive to the working of societies. With a view to cope with the increased work, it was highly necessary to appoint three Assistant Registrars.

The existing inspectoral staff of 20 Inspectors was quite inadequate to supervise the working of 1,800 societies distributed over 30 taluks. Of them, one Inspector was deputed solely for work in the Central Co-operative Bank, Trivandrum. In British India, there was on an average an Inspector for supervising the work of 25 societies besides a separate staff for auditing their accounts. There were also union societies, supervisors, organisers, etc., to help the Inspectors. But in Travancore the Inspectors had to do all the work connected with the societies and one Inspector had in some places more than 100 societies. For 7 months every year he had to do audit work alone. There was hardly any time to attend to other items of work. The liquidation of many societies was due to improper working due to lack of supervision. The number of Inspectors should be increased to improve such a state of affairs and there should be at least one Inspector for each taluk. The maximum number of societies under the control of each Inspector should also be specified.

The number of cases filed by the societies was increasing rapidly and the recovery of amounts according to the decisions in those cases took a long time. To avoid such delay, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies should be invested with the powers of a Dewan Peishkar and the Inspectors with those of Tahsildars under the Revenue Recovery Regulation. That would ensure the speedy recovery of the dues.

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